

## HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 895

By DeBerry J

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend Ms. Jean Bernard Saulsberry for her meritorious service to LeMoyne-Owen College.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly are especially pleased to recognize those individuals who have served with dedication, vigor, and enthusiasm over the years to their respective professions and communities; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Saulsberry is currently the Director of Student Development and the advisor to the gospel choir at LeMoyne-Owen College (LOC), in which positions she has served with acumen and alacrity for many years and has earned the admiration and respect of her peers, superiors, and students for her exceptional work; and

WHEREAS, before her sterling tenure at LOC, Jean Saulsberry received her Bachelors of Business Administration with a concentration in management from Christian Brothers University, where she also served as an admissions counselor and recruiter for the school; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Saulsberry continued her illustrious career in higher education administration at LOC, where she rendered impeccable service as the Interim Director of Admissions and Recruitment and Director of Enrollment Management before aptly fulfilling her current position in Student Development; in these previous positions, coordinating campus-wide strategies to recruit and maintain enrollment, Campus Day activities, and faculty and staff workshops, establishing a student disability program and campus-wide customer service program, and co-chairing the Enrollment Management Committee were just a few of the myriad of activities for which she was responsible; and

WHEREAS, as Director of Student Development, Jean Saulsberry is called “Mama” by the majority of the students due to her uncommon ability to make them feel at home; even after

graduating, students will come by the school to visit her from as far away as New York and California; and

WHEREAS, in the same position, Ms. Saulsberry is affectionately nicknamed the “Mayor of the Student Center” by the faculty because she maintains order and is able to relate to the students; and

WHEREAS, Jean Saulsberry gives unreservedly of herself to the students at LOC, and she inspires all of us to believe in a better future by encouraging and expecting nothing less than excellence from her students; and

WHEREAS, as the advisor to the LeMoyne-Owen College Gospel Choir for the past twelve years, Ms. Saulsberry truly distinguishes herself and stands head and shoulders above others in her field; and

WHEREAS, under her capable leadership, the choir has received two back-to-back College Choir of the Year Bridge Awards in 2003-2004; and

WHEREAS, the members of the choir have displayed their vocal talents at numerous venues and events, including performing as special guests at the annual Kentucky State University Gospel Extravaganza; the opening act and background performers for Pastor Shirley Caesar at Gibson Guitar Hall; the featured gospel choir in the Ballet of Memphis production, *As the Spirit Move You*; and the guest of Kentucky State University Ensemble during their Annual Gospel Explosion; and

WHEREAS, the Gospel Choir further demonstrates its members’ musical abilities in its ministry to the Memphis and Shelby County Correctional Center and the State Prison and has plans to sing at Bethune-Cookman College, as well as the local churches in Daytona and Tampa, Florida; the choir also received the honor of being invited to sing for the opening of Barack Obama’s campaign office in Memphis; and

WHEREAS, Jean Saulsberry has been with the choir through it all and has selflessly donated an immeasurable amount of her personal time as the only adult who travels with them, giving up weeknights, weekends, holidays, and vacation time to the Gospel Choir; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Saulsberry is a benevolent person who is always eager to lend a helping hand to those in need; she works with Pilgrim Rest Missionary Baptist Church to provide

toiletary items for LOC students, and it is not unusual for her buy a student lunch, donate clothing, take a student to the doctor, or even drive a student to church on Sunday mornings; and

WHEREAS, recognizing the importance of someone knowing and appreciating his or her cultural background, Jean Saulsberry initiated the celebration of Black History Month at Baptist Memorial Hospital and formed the first gospel choir, Shades of Ebony, to perform at these events; and

WHEREAS, a dynamic and eloquent speaker of deep, religious faith, Ms. Saulsberry has displayed her Christian beliefs as a speaker at religious aggregations all over the Mid-South area and beyond; she further evinces these beliefs as an active and devout member of Monumental Baptist Church; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Jean Bernard Saulsberry possesses all of the traits of an exemplary Tennessean whose labors are mightily worthy of celebration; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby join the staff, faculty, and students in honoring and applauding Ms. Jean Bernard Saulsberry for her unparalleled service to LeMoyne-Owen College and the Memphis community and offer our best wishes for many more happy and productive years in the future.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.